

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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PARIS FOR OECD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, TCDC, UNDP
SUBJECT: THIRD PREPCOM FOR TCDC CONFERENCE: OPENING
MEETING, 15 MAY 1978

REF: BUENOS AIRES A-21

1. SUMMARY: THE THIRD SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE UN CONFERENCE ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MET INITIALLY FOR 90 MINUTES TO HEAR OPENING REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN RISTIC (YUGOSLAVIA), SECRETARY GENERAL BRAD MORSE AND DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL ABDEL MEGUID (EGYPT). NEW VICE CHAIRMEN REPLACING DEPARTING COLLEAGUES WERE ELECTED, ONE EACH FROM ARGENTINE AND BULGARIA. MEGUID'S RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE END MAY AND RETURN TO EGYPT AS MINISTER FOR PLANNING WAS ANNOUNCED.

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AFTERNOON DEVOTED TO GROUP OF 77 CAUCUS ON THE DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION. END SUMMARY.

2. NOTING THAT TCDC WAS ALREADY RECOGNIZED WIDELY AND INCREASINGLY USED AS AN APPROPRIATE INSTRUMENT FOR PROGRESSING TOWARD THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (NIEO), CHAIRMAN RISTIC LABELED THE DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION A "GOOD"

BASIS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION. HE CITED OECD INTEREST IN AND SUPPORT FOR TCDC IN REGARD TO THE NEED FOR FULL INVOLVEMENT BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

3. SPEAKING AT GREATER LENGTH, SECRETARY GENERAL MORSE EXPLAINED THE DRAFT PLAN AS PROVIDING A REORIENTATION OF EMPHASIS IN LINE WITH UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY REQUIREMENTS. HE DESCRIBED THE TCDC UNDERTAKING AS A GREAT CHALLENGE, ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT BEING ADDRESSED BY THE UN, TO PROVIDE THE INTELLECTUAL AND ACTION-ORIENTED IMPETUS TO THE REALIZATION OF NIEO. URGING THE FULLEST ATTENTION TO ITS COMPONENTS, MORSE SPECIFICALLY FORESAW IN THE PLAN A MEANS TO THE EXPANSION OF HORIZONTAL TRADE AMONG LDCS, TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND TO THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE DATA BASE FOR EXPANSION OF THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE.

4. MORSE, WITH ELABORATE PRAISE FOR HIS SERVICES AND UNIQUE CONTRIBUTIONS TO TCDC, ANNOUNCED THE RESIGNATION OF MEGUID AS OF MAY 31 IN ORDER TO TAKE UP ONCE MORE THE POST OF MINISTER FOR PLANNING IN THE EGYPTIAN CABINET. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT HE WILL NOT BE REPLACED AS DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL.

5. MEGUID DESCRIBED THE DEVELOPING WORLD AS HAVING PROGRESSED GENERALLY IN STAGES FROM THE NEED FOR TECHNICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSISTANCE FOR ESSENTIAL BUREAUCRATIC SKILLS IN THE 1950S THROUGH INTEREST IN PRE-INVESTMENT STUDIES DURING THE '60S TO THE CURRENT NEED FOR NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO MAKE POSSIBLE SELF-RELIANCE AND TRUE LDC SOLIDARITY. THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE CATALYTIC TCDC ROLE WERE LISTED AS: (A) CREATION OR STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS; (B) ESTABLISHMENT OF A COOPERATIVE LDC NETWORK FOR THE EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE; (C) A REFOCUS ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES TO AID A STRUCTURED LDC DIALOGUE WITH THE "NORTH", AND (D) AN ENLARGEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. WITHOUT DIMINISHING THE PROJECTED ROLE OF A TCDC FOCAL POINT IN THE UN, MEGUID ASSURED THE COMMITTEE THAT NO NEW SECRETARIAT OR BUREAUCRACY WAS INTENDED.

6. BRIG. GEN'L. JORGE POZZO, NEWLY APPOINTED HEAD OF THE ARGENTINE COMMISSION TO COORDINATE THE TCDC CONFERENCE AND HIS COUNTRY'S DELEGATE TO THE PREPCOM, WAS ELECTED VICE CHAIRMAN TO REPLACE A REASSIGNED COUNTRYMAN. A DUTCH DELEGATE MUTTERED PRIVATELY ABOUT ARGENTINE GENERALS, HUMAN RIGHTS, ETC.

7. COMMENT: THE G-77 CAUCUS MAY WELL BE MORE INTEREST-
ING THAN THE MORNING PLENARY. ARGENTINA'S CHIEF TCDC
EXPERT JUAN FLEMING NOTED TO USDEL THAT THE NEW DRAFT PLAN
CONTAINED NO REFERENCE TO PREVIOUS DOCUMENTS (E.G., DP-69)
OR DEBATES WHICH HERETOFORE HAVE FORMED THE BASIS OF THE
EVOLVING TCDC CONCEPT AND IMPLIED THAT HE AND SOME LA
COLLEAGUES WISHED A RETURN TO "MORE TRADITIONAL" TCDC.
WESTERN DELEGATES GENERALLY OPPOSE IMPORTANT PARTS OF THE
CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE DRAFT PLAN AS WELL AS
PARTS OF THE PLAN ITSELF BUT ARE UNDECIDED AS TO THE BEST
METHOD FOR REGISTERING THEIR VIEWS: EITHER THROUGH GENERAL
REMARKS OR DETAILED CRITICISM. MCHENRY

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